

**Police Complaints Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting**

Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, January 21, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Location: Office of Police Complaints
1400 I Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005

PCB Members Present:

- Paul Ashton
- Bobbie Strang
- Assistant Chief Patrick Burk (via telephone)
- Kurt Vorndran (via telephone)

PCB Members Absent:

- none

OPC Staff Present:

- Michael G. Tobin, Executive Director
- Mona Andrews, Chief Investigator
- Natasha Smith, Investigations Manager
- Robert Rowe, Investigations Manager
- Michal Bilick, Program Analyst
- Catherine Twigg, Investigator
- Daniel Sutton, Investigator

Public Members Present:

- None

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order

Mr. Tobin stated that the meeting was being recorded. Ms. Smith confirmed that the meeting was being recorded. Mr. Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Public Comment Period

No public comments were noted.

III. Adoption of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 12, 2015, PCB meeting. Chief Burke made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Ashton seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Tobin discussed the District's rule which allows for the audio recording of meetings. Mr. Tobin explained to the board members that all board meetings would now be recorded and that the audio recording would be posted and available for review. Mr. Tobin also noted that an abbreviated form of the minutes would also be available.

IV. Agency Report

Amendments to the NEAR Act were discussed. Some of these amendments included:

- a. Increasing the time complainants have to file complaints from 45 days to 90 days.
- b. Allow OPC to investigate criminal related complaints that are filed with MPD.

- c. Allow OPC to review all serious use of force cases.
- d. Allow OPC to utilize a Rapid Resolution process.

OPC is ready to start the conciliation program, headed by Ms. Bilick. MPD still has not appointed a staff member to explain the policies and procedures to the officers.

A mediation update was given. Cases referred to mediation during the first quarter of FY16 increased by 130%. Average days between intake and mediation went down by approximately 202 days during the first quarter of FY16. Scheduling mediation now takes approximately 41 days, half the time it took during the first quarter of FY15.

OPC has direct access to body-worn cameras (BWC). 5th and 7th District MPD officers have been assigned BWC's. OPC sent its first Report of Investigation to a complaint examiner that had BWC footage. BWC's allow OPC to identify officers much sooner. Board members wanting to observe a demonstration of the BWC footage should contact Mr. Tobin.

Next week OPC investigators will begin recording all interviews. Investigators will continue to summarize the interview in a memorandum. Board members may still continue to see statements in cases where an interview was not recorded. Any board member wanting to observe an interview is encouraged to contact Ms. Andrews. Board members who want the recorded interview with the dismissal should submit their request to Ms. Andrews.

Mr. Tobin attended the American Society of Criminology national conference on November 20, 2015. Assistant Chief Burke was a speaker at the plenary session and Mr. Ashton attended the conference. The conference was a great opportunity to network and make contacts with people involved in police oversight.

Hard copies of OPC's annual report were given to the board members, members of the DC Mayor's Office, and to the DC council members. The annual report was completed six months earlier this year.

Mr. Tobin attended the first OPC budget hearing this year. He will attend the first agency performance review hearing on February 11, 2016.

New investigator Lindsey Murphy will start February 8, 2016. There is one more investigator position vacancy. Interviews for that position have been conducted.

One spring intern has started and two or more interns plan to start in approximately a week or two.

Complaint volume numbers are down. There are less open cases, more closed cases, a lot of CE decisions, and a lot more cases with the CE this time this year, as compared to previous years.

V. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The public meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:35 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held March 24th at 6:00 p.m. All board members agreed to hold the board meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Minutes prepared by Investigations Manager Natasha Smith